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I am writing to strongly urge you to deny the move by NAB to block local weather, traffic, and news on satellite radio. My reasons for this are as follows:

- I live in Stafford County, VA. The only traffic reports that cover my area accurately is available on XM Radio. I was thrilled when they started offering this service. The local station (WBQB) only covers DC and Northern VA, and broadcasts every 10 minutes during drive time and sporatically other times. The all news station (WTOP) does not cover Northern VA well and never covers Fredericksburg. The traffic in Northern VA is horrendous and can snarl at any time. XM has continuous reports so there is no waiting.

- Continuous weather reporting is a safety benefit, as this area is prone to violent thunderstorms. On commercial radio, you have to wait until "after these messages".

- Having to change from XM satellite to FM or AM to get these reports is a major nuisance and will stifle the growth of XM. XM gets most of its subscribership from urban areas where people have long commutes.

In short, XM's timely broadcasts of local weather, news, and traffic are not only a major convenience, but also have a safety benefit. XM's local broadcasts are superior to broadcast FM/AM, which is why NAB wishes to stop them.

Please do not bow to the wishes of NAB.

-Bryan Freeman